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The Daily Gamecock, MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2012

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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Greek Village looks to expand by 35 percent

Building plan expected to decrease size of sorority, fraternity chapters

Amanda Coyne
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USC and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life are looking to expand Greek Village on multiple planes, largest of which is the future expansion of Greek Village by up to 35 percent. “There is discussion with the administration to expand the Greek Village as part of the plan to increase the number of on-campus beds,” said Keith Ellis, associate director of fraternity and sorority life. “It depends on the surveying of the land and the placement of the expansion, but we hope to build



Andrew Askins / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

VILLAGE ● 2

Greek Village’s proposed expansion includes up to seven new houses, in part to increase the number of on-campus beds.



Brian Almond / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

PETS Inc., a local Columbia humane society, sees a high number of students adopting pets, particularly puppies.

Students not always ready for pet parenthood

Humane society encourages foster program for young adults

Julianne Lewis
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Without parents to prevent students from buying or adopting pets, many students turn to humane societies, such as PETS Inc., to find a lifelong friend. However, many of the adopted animals, especially puppies, are not lifelong. “[Students] are out on their own and they can have an animal now without their parents really being able to stop them,” said Nicole Nettles, a PETS Inc. administrator. “They want a puppy because puppies are really cute and that sort of thing. They feel like they can make their own decisions now, so they take advantage. Sadly, there is a decent return rate for puppies because of the commitment.” Before students, who make up the majority of weekend PETS Inc. patrons, are allowed to adopt pets, an adoption specialist determines if pets are allowed in the student’s residence. After that, hopeful pet parents are versed in the responsibilities of animal care.

“We go over all the pros and cons of a puppy and tell them that an older dog may be more suitable for their lifestyle and schedule,” Nettles said. “If they’re really busy, we tell them maybe they should wait until they’re less busy. We go over what a puppy brings to the table. It’s a huge responsibility.” PETS Inc. recommends young adults adopt an older dog because they are less of a time commitment and usually trained. PETS Inc. recommends all people, especially young adults, participate in the organization’s foster program, where dogs can be taken out for the day as running partners or buddies. “Our foster program doesn’t allow the puppies and kittens to go because they generally do get adopted out pretty quickly,” Nettles said. “I would really recommend a student, or anyone thinking of getting their own dog for the first time, to foster an adult animal so they know what they’re getting into. Puppies have to be house-trained and taught not to chew stuff, and it can turn into something a busy young adult doesn’t want to deal with. They could learn a lot through doing a foster.” Second-year exercise science student Marley Berling

PETS ● 2

USC Common Courses offered for class of 2016

Program combines housing, U101, core classes to build bonds

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Incoming students for Fall 2012 have been offered the option of enrolling in USC Connect’s newest initiative known as Common Courses. Common Courses will combine students in University 101 classes and required core classes. For example, the 19 students in a single University 101 class who choose to take biology 101 will all attend the same 200-person lecture biology class. Those same 19 students will also stay in the same residence halls — Columbia Hall, East Quad, McBryde or Patterson Hall — in a type of living and learning community. “By linking students with two or three courses together, those 20 students are embedded in, for example, a big biology class but are always in U101 together,” said Gene Luna, director of student development and university housing. Officials strive for those participating in Common Courses to connect general education classes to the real-life lessons taught in U101 and experienced in college. “Research has told us that students don’t often connect the Carolina Core to their majors,” Luna said. “The reason the university has the first two years of liberal education is because it teaches you how to think and how to seek answers ... It prepares you to go into that major and be able to better connect your course of study with the rest of the world.” More than 300 students have already applied to participate in a Common Course, and the university is expecting that number to double by May. Kelsey Vess, an incoming freshman for Fall 2012, is among them.

COURSES ● 2

Service council kicks off volunteer week

Group encourages USC students to interact with Columbia community in variety of areas


Thad Moore
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For a few hours a day this week, USC students will take Columbia’s charities by storm, as the Carolina Service Council celebrates its annual Week of Service. The group, said its president Christina Galardi, hopes to give students the opportunity to work in a variety of focus areas, ranging from urban agriculture to underprivileged children. Among the options this year: the Ronald McDonald House, the St. Andrews Kids Cafe, City Roots, Agape Senior Home, PETS Inc. and St. Lawrence Place. “It’ll be a small group, but there will be an opportunity each day of the week,” said Galardi, a fourth-year public relations student. “They will be at different times, so we just hope that students would have an available time and that they would be able to dedicate a little bit of time to service this week.” But CSC has broader goals that grow beyond this week as well. The group, Galardi said, wants to get students involved in the community and encourage campus organizations to organize service volunteer events — goals the


SERVICE ● 2

WEATHER

Monday


80°52°

Tuesday

80°46°

MIX

INSIDE



Red Hot Chili Peppers

The alternative rockers brought a high-energy show to a sold-out Colonial Life Arena crowd this weekend.

See page 5

VIEWPOINTS



Activist punished

Columnist Mat Slougher discusses Tim DeChristopher’s conviction and release from isolation.

See page 4

SPORTS



USC fourth in SEC

The Gamecocks claimed the series win over the Tennessee Volunteers this weekend.

See page 8

SERVICE ● Continued from 1

One major reason for implementing Common Courses is to increase USC's retention rate from 86 percent

"I have a few girls on my hall who already study together for classes ... even if though they aren't in the same class sections," Wiggins said. "It'd be great if students with similar majors who live together could all be in the same class. I think you'd see an increase in GPAs and class participation."

CSC is still accepting registrations for the week's opportunities on its website, Galardi said, and invites all students — regardless of their affiliation with the group — to sign up.

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She cautions students

Though dogs may be the most popular pets for young adults, they certainly aren't the only animals students are

The ducks, which she found on Craigslist and picked up from a local feed and tack store, aren't messy and are easy to take care of, according to

"I have no idea what I'm going to do when they get big, but I'll figure something out," Rockefeller said.

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VILLAGE ● Continued from 1

"On the sorority side, they have grown in chapter sizes, and that's the big driver here," Brewer said. "It's important to get other sororities in — and other fraternities if they choose to be there — in order to give the opportunity for students to become affiliated with organizations in Greek Life."

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Greek Village sets its sights on Coliseum

This semester has been a tough one for USC Greek Life. We are reluctant to add to the criticisms — well-earned though they may be — but officials of social fraternities and sororities may be on the verge of messing with an issue on which all students feel strongly — parking.

The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life are considering the expansion of the

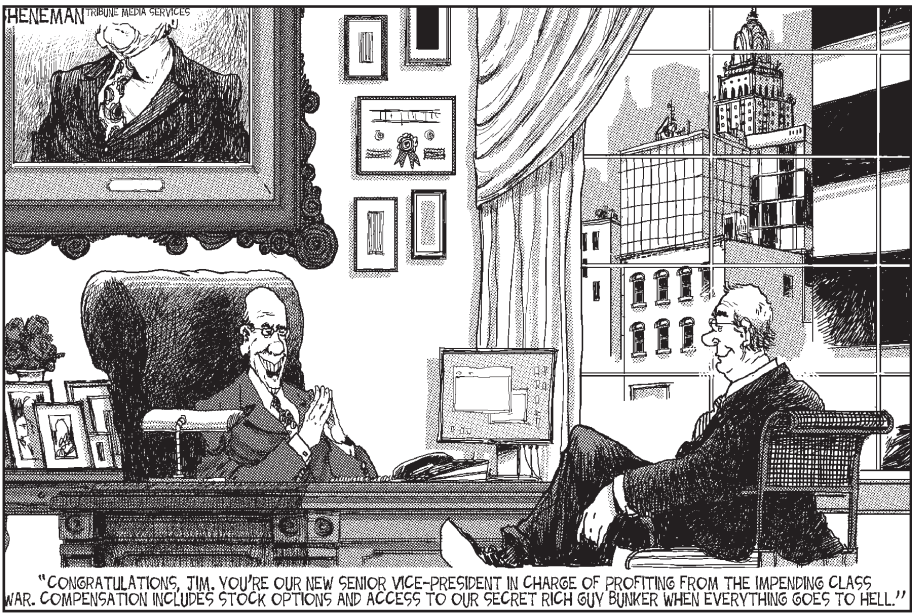
Greek Village — proposing a building strategy that could include anywhere from four to seven houses. The plans have several site options for the houses, but the one currently

“There really is only one response to this news: Don’t touch the Coliseum lots. No exception, no excuses.”

being discussed the most is the lots behind Carolina Coliseum.

These lots have become over the past few years the lifeline of most off-campus students. Garages are being pushed nearly to capacity, and the prices have become an insupportable burden on students’ budgets. Furthermore, the lots themselves are already subject to traffic increases from special events to which Parking Services often replies with a shrug of the shoulders and “too bad.” Rounding out this list of difficulties is the now infamous new business school, whose consequences on student traffic and parking are impossible to predict and horrifying to imagine.

There really is only one response to this news: Don’t touch the Coliseum lots. No exception, no excuses. Until this campus can truly say it is adequately prepared to handle student parking demand, no attempt should be made that could possibly deny students the few “affordable” options they have left. We understand that the Coliseum lots are still only one option, but we truly feel they shouldn’t even be considered as a possibility. That alone is going too far and gives a very large and disquieting signal of just how out of touch USC administrators may be when it comes to student concerns.



Activist admired for civil disobedience

DeChristopher leaves isolation after outcry

Tim DeChristopher, an environmental activist currently serving a two-year prison term for disrupting a federal land auction in Utah, was recently released from an “isolation unit” (essentially, solitary confinement), in which he had been held for 20 days. He was returned to the minimum security facility where he had originally been held. Authorities placed DeChristopher in solitary because an email he had sent contained a “threat” — specifically, a threat to return a \$25,000 donation to his legal fund, because the donor’s business practices were at odds with DeChristopher’s principles.

It is ridiculous to think that our legal system would punish a man for threatening to give someone his money back, but given the history of this particular case, it is not surprising. A lawyer for DeChristopher has compared his client’s ordeal to Franz Kafka’s novel “The Trial.” That’s an exaggeration, perhaps, but it’s not off base.

DeChristopher’s story begins near the end of 2008, during the last days of George W. Bush’s presidency, when that administration decided to sell the oil and gas drilling rights to a large number of parcels of federal land without a proper review of the potential environmental impact. DeChristopher, worried about the impact of fossil fuel use on the planet’s climate, attended

a protest of that auction; during the protest, he went inside, was handed a bidding paddle and started bidding.

Bidding on federal land rights without any intention of paying is, of course, illegal. DeChristopher knew that, and he was prepared to accept the consequences of his actions in the name of raising awareness of environmental issues. However, the government’s treatment of him since his arrest has been nothing short of shameful. At trial, the judge barred his defense from discussing his motives or mentioning to the jury that the auction itself had been ruled illegal. Since the auctions, 77 of the leases sold have been voided.

After his conviction, DeChristopher made public statements extolling the virtue of civil disobedience and calling for continued action in the fight against climate change. When Judge Dee Benson sentenced DeChristopher to two years in prison, he commented that “the offense itself ... wasn’t that bad,” and pointed to the activist’s “continuing trail of statements” as the reason for the harsh sentence.

The judge openly admitted that DeChristopher was not being jailed for his crime but for his speech.

Our society faces no more pressing challenge than climate change. Everything else that we argue about in our political discourse is irrelevant if we continue to drive our whole civilization toward a cliff. Ordinary politics has failed to address this threat. One party talks about the importance of dealing with climate change, but doesn’t put those words into practice, while the other denies that climate change is even happening at all. We have no choice anymore but direct action and civil disobedience. Tim DeChristopher should be an example to us all.

Loss of military funds will hurt state economy

Closing bases pushes families away

The article in The State, “Next round of cuts could threaten S.C. bases,” tells of the dramatic price cuts that will change South Carolina’s military bases and economy. This is not news to South Carolina. The Pentagon has already decided on implementing \$487 billion in cuts, but this supposedly was not to affect South Carolina.

The article says “another \$600 billion in cuts could be required because of last year’s debt-ceiling standoff in Congress,” possibly shutting down local military bases.

Rep. Joe Wilson, a Republican member of the House Armed Services Committee, does not believe these cuts will actually happen. I agree with Wilson that bases should not be closed due to price cuts. These cuts should, instead, occur in other places less crucial to the safety of our country.

I agree with the fact that the United States obviously needs to make major changes in the amount of money it spends, due to the tremendous debt the country faces. But like many other states, South Carolina is hugely populated by military families, and there is tremendous support for armed services. Cutting bases would not be good for anyone because families will have to move, robbing the state’s economy of a significant resource. These bases contribute \$7.1 billion a year in total impact, which is a huge number considering the size of the military presence here. Any threat to this presence could weaken an already endangered South Carolina economy.



Annie Wilson
Second-year public relations student

Campuses no place for concealed weapons

Need for personal protection puts schools in danger during times of crisis

Since the Virginia Tech shootings in 2007, gun advocates have been pushing for colleges to allow students to carry concealed weapons on campuses.

How could the introduction of more bullets into classrooms improve the situation?

Campus concealment bills have met opposition from school administrators and police — the two groups that, more than anyone else, would have to face the gun issue from the wrong end of the barrel. Supporters of the bill use the requirements needed to earn a concealed weapon permit as the proof that only the most responsible and well-trained citizens would have a concealed gun. The U.S. Army’s friendly-fire casualty numbers show that even the best training on a firing range can’t demonstrate a person’s ability to act calmly in the middle of a firefight.

Let’s say that, based on what has occurred more

and more frequently in the past few years, a shooter starts a rampage on a public university campus. The shooter, aiming to cause maximum carnage, chooses the school’s student union during lunch as the target of his rampage. Several die before the shots and screams draw the attention of two armed students on opposite sides of the building, one on the floor above and one below. One of them reaches the second floor first and begins searching for the gunman, who by this time has moved on. The second responder arrives, panics when he sees a man with a gun, and fires. He misses, hitting a fleeing student behind his target. The first responder returns fire, killing the would-be hero. Police respond to the scene and assume the gunman is dead.

The worst-case scenario is the one that must always be assumed when imagining the impact of a law. This sort of vigilante crime-fighting is the nightmare scenario police are terrified of.



Scott Horn
Third-year political science student

IT’S YOUR RIGHT

The goal of The Daily Gamecock’s Viewpoints page is to stimulate discussion in the University of South Carolina community.

All published authors are expected to provide logical arguments to back their views.

The Daily Gamecock encourages readers to voice opinions and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on dailygamecock.com.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted via email to gamecockeditor@sc.edu. Letters must be 200 to 300 words in length

and include the author’s name, year in school and area of study.

We also invite student leaders and USC faculty members to submit guest columns. Columnists should keep submissions to about 500 words in length and include the author’s name and position.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length and clarity, or not publish at all.

All submissions become the property of The Daily Gamecock and must conform to the legal standards of USC Student Media.

About The Daily Gamecock

The Daily Gamecock is the editorially independent student newspaper of the University of South Carolina. It is published daily during the fall and spring semesters and nine times during the summer with the exception of university holidays and exam periods. Opinions expressed in The Daily Gamecock are those of the editors or author and not those of the University of South Carolina. The Board of Student Publications and Communications is the publisher of The Daily Gamecock. The Department of Student Media is the newspaper’s parent organization. The Daily Gamecock is supported in part by student-activity fees. One free copy per reader. Additional copies may be purchased for \$1 each from the Department of Student Media.

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Band brings chart-topping hits, high energy to sold-out Colonial Life Arena this weekend

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They came in skintight red sequin shorts, bunny ears and shiny pleather platform boots laced up to the knee. They came in faded T-shirts, pastel Polos and snapback caps coolly rotated to show off their favorite teams from behind. They came for a taste of the Chili Peppers, and some even dressed to match.

“We made our own shirts,” said one-half of a matching couple as she gently fingered the beaded fringe at the bottom of her homemade Red Hot Chili Peppers tee. Her look-alike partner nodded adamantly, holding out his handiwork to be admired by the passing crowd. “That’s just what you do for your favorite band.”

Sure, Columbia is known for being “famously hot,” but things got even more heated when the Red Hot Chili Peppers invaded the Colonial Life Arena on Saturday night. Originally scheduled for Jan. 28, the concert was delayed while lead singer Anthony Kiedis underwent foot surgery for injuries he’d sustained on the band’s Stadium Arcadium tour. And after a two-month wait, fans of the Los Angeles funk rockers came out in full force in the 75-degree weather, filling the paid parking lots with preshow festivities long before the band was slated to take the stage. Rows of popped trunks and pitched canopies clustered the lots outside the arena, with Red Hot revelers milling between cars, singing along to their favorite tunes blasting from thudding speakers.

The inside of the Colonial Life Arena was almost insulated from the rowdy crowd outdoors. Fans flocked to the stands of concert merchandise, shelling out upward of \$85 for a piece of Chili Pepper memorabilia. A few old-school RHCP T-shirts also made the rounds at the arena, faded and torn from years of wear after their glory days in the early 1990s. The difference in chosen attire was a metaphor for the crowd itself; young teenage fans still wet behind the ears tagged along behind die-hard RHCP parents, and clumps of 20- to 30-somethings penetrated the already-growing audience.

Although the show was sold out before the original date, seats in the arena were only half-filled by the time the band’s chosen opener, Santigold, began her performance. Framed by identical backup dancers who mirrored her every move, the singer stayed true to her quirky, punk style — and also her nickname. Donning everything from shiny gold glasses to leggings and even a golden streamer cape that flickered with light as the singer bounded across the stage, Santigold even shared a little-known fact with the crowd.

“I think this our first time ever in Columbia,” she shouted into the microphone as the crowd erupted into screams. “We’re having a freaking great time!”

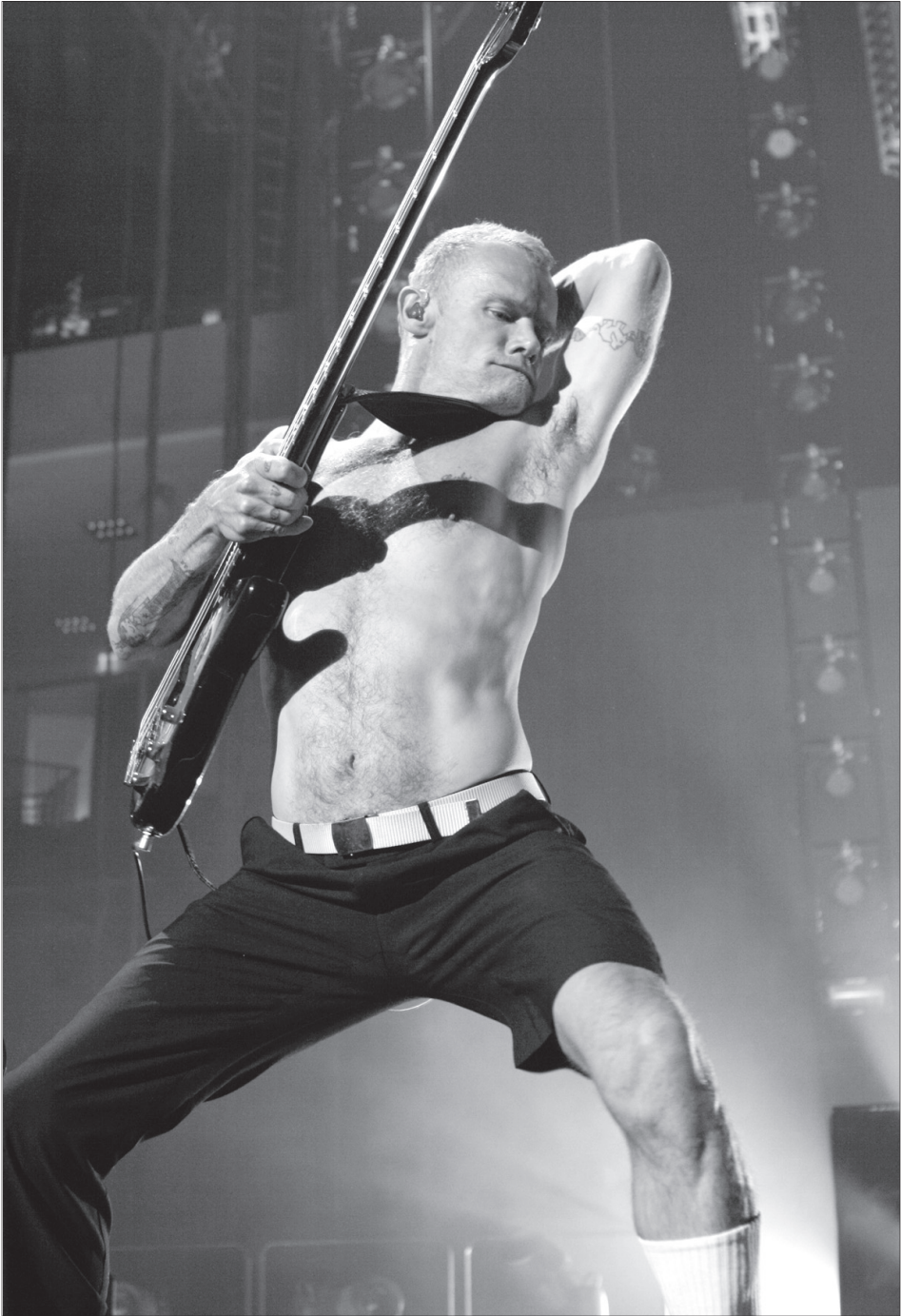
Bathed in a golden glow on stage, she ran through fan favorite hits like “L.E.S. Artistes” and even debuted fresh material from her upcoming album before inviting the screaming throng of fans who had congealed at the front of the stage to dance along for her final song, “Creator.” Even though Santigold’s performance could have been easily overpowered by the boisterous crowd clamoring for their seats, the singer’s fusion of reggae, electronica, pop and hip-hop tunes was the perfect way to get the crowd warmed up for what was to come.

Fifteen minutes later, the arena was flowing with fans, slowly ambling up and down the aisles with \$7.50 worth of beer sloshing from overflowing cups as they searched for their seats in the packed house. Conversations about drunk friends or what the band would open with permeated the air, but as soon as the lights dimmed, all eyes flew to the stage, where drummer Chad Smith’s set was slowly coming to life in the glow of green light.

And when the Chili Peppers play, there is no stopping. From the first track to the last act, the band pulsed with energy and a true passion for what they do. Even with the replacement of longtime guitarist John Frusciante with 2009 addition Josh Klinghoffer, the band played with the same ferocious intensity and punk rock attitude that made them the wild child of the SoCal music scene. Barreling through song after song, RHCP took almost no breaks in between, filling the air space with impromptu jam sessions between Klinghoffer and blue-haired bassist Flea or an improv drum solo from Smith. Kiedis, sporting noticeably less hair than his earlier days, has replaced his long locks with a frisky mustache that stayed firmly in place as he ricocheted across the stage in a wave of pounding might that would match any performer half his age. And the crowd loved every minute of it. Even Kiedis’ mid-show lyrical slip couldn’t bring down the high-octane levels of energy.

“I swear, that has never ever happened to us before,” he said after he stumbled across the lyrics. “I think I must have gotten distracted by something in the audience,” he said with a devilish grin.

The evening’s set list was a mix of the old and new Chili Peppers, each accompanied by an overlay of kaleidoscopic backgrounds on numerous screens that lowered and rotated during the show. The band played several tracks from its most recent album, “I’m with You,” (including “The Adventures of Rain Dance Maggie” and “Ethiopia”). However, the boys did not neglect their duty to old school RHCP fans. Only a few chords of singles like “Under the Bridge” and “By the Way” were needed before the crowd exploded into thunderous applause and the sound of thousands of fans singing along began to bear down on the solo Kiedis. RHCP even sprinkled in “Dani California” and “Charlie” from their double-disc powerhouse “Stadium Arcadium” and kept true to their rowdy stage antics — with Flea doing a walking handstand



Photos by Spencer Scott / THE DAILY GAMECOCK
Grammy-winning alternative rockers the Red Hot Chili Peppers brought a nonstop, high-energy show to a sold-out Colonial Life Arena crowd Saturday.

across the stage shortly after laying his bass to rest and Klinghoffer melting to the floor during an intermittent solo. Closing with “Give It Away,” the band flashed audience photos across the screens, showing their true love and dedication for the people who have made them who they are today.

“The first time we came to Columbia, it was the early 1980s,” Flea shouted to the cheering audience. “And there was so much unbelievable love and warmth. And it’s still here! We love you guys!”

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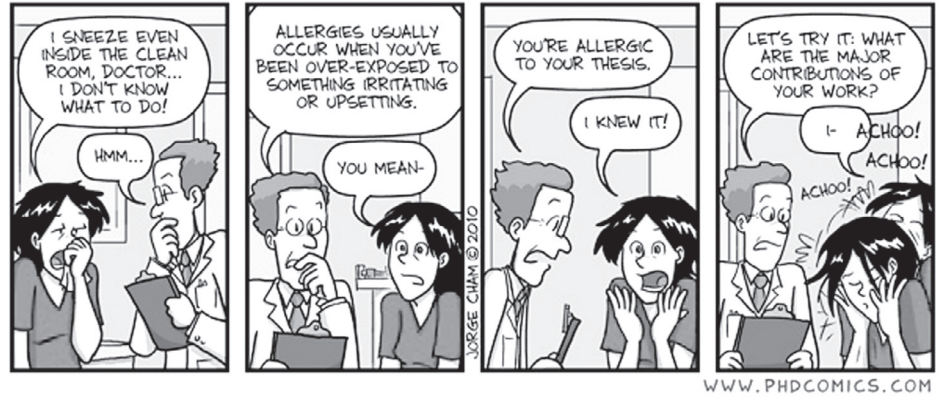


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Sudoku By The Mephram Group 04/09/12

Level 1 2 3 4

How to Play
Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution for 04/06/12

7	9	8	3	6	5	1	4	2
1	3	2	9	4	8	7	5	6
4	5	6	7	1	2	8	9	3
3	2	5	4	8	7	6	1	9
6	8	1	5	9	3	2	7	4
9	7	4	1	2	6	5	3	8
8	1	3	2	7	9	4	6	5
5	6	7	8	3	4	9	2	1
2	4	9	6	5	1	3	8	7

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Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams 04/09/12

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ACROSS
1 Removes, as a backpack from one's shoulder
9 Described in letters
14 Flock tender
17 Style eschewing heavy sauces
18 Was Grinch-like, in a way
19 Trattoria offering
20 Pros with schedules
22 Assemblage
26 Pillow stuff
27 Fab
32 1840s-'50s antislavery party
34 Symbol of Middle America
35 Brain cramp, so to speak
37 Like Schoenberg's "Moses und Aron"
38 Enjoying the mall, say
39 Wyoming's ___ Range
40 Pride of the pumped-up
41 Wagnerian title?
42 Indiana senator who retired in 2011
43 Do something about
48 Island classic
55 1926 novel set in Pamplona
57 1970s Patrick Duffy title character who can breathe underwater
58 Move sneakily
59 Revealing
DOWN
1 Some museum pieces
2 Its atomic number is 10
3 Turn about
4 Glowing, as coals
5 Eisner's Disney successor
6 Livingstone explored it
7 Crown in the Henry VIII era, e.g.
8 Only nonrhyming ghost in Ms. Pac-Man
9 Dos into doce
10 ___ Robles, California
11 Drop a line, maybe
12 Advanced
13 Big name in 34-Down
15 "Bug off!"
16 Aparicio of Cooperstown
21 Musical based on an O'Hara novel
22 Key of the last Brandenburg concerto
23 Declaim
24 Stop on a line
25 Not open-ended, as a question
26 Flexible weapon
27 Appeals
28 Brio
29 Nice sibling
30 More luxuriant
31 Film that often includes drawings
33 Dramatist O'Casey
34 Some email receivers
36 Opposite of 47-Down

Solutions from 04/06/12

E	V	E	R	D	A	T	A	I	H	O	P	E		
K	I	W	I	A	G	O	G	S	E	W	E	D		
G	R	E	S	B	O	A	R	D	B	R	E	A	D	
S	U	L	K	S	L	E	O	N	E					
S	L	I	P	S	A	L	E	S	G	A	L	S		
		T	A	L	C			T	O	O	T	O		
E	T	S		R	A	T	I	O	N	E	H	R	U	
P	O	W	E	R	P	U	R	C	H	A	S	I	N	G
I	N	A	N	E	P	E	T	E	R	N	A	H		
S	A	L	A	D	A		E	R	O	S				
C	L	E	M	S		S	U	I	T	S	P	A	C	E
			E	M	I	L	S		E	X	I	L	E	
S	T	I	L	L	S	T	A	N	D		O	R	C	A
H	A	M	E	L		R	I	O	T		N	C	I	S
E	R	O	D	E		A	D	D	S		S	A	D	E

40 Clipper airlines
42 Pro follower
43 Casino conveniences
44 Indian tea
45 Look after
46 QB Jim Kelly was its 1984 MVP
47 Immaculate
49 Use the hammock
50 Like some traditions
51 Trace
52 1930s-'40s mystery film

scene stealer
53 Part of le visage
54 To be, to Tiberius
56 GPS determination

Baseball claims series win over Tennessee

Gamecocks fourth in SEC despite stranding 111 runners in 12 games

Isabelle Khurshudyan
IKHURSHUDYAN@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

With Friday’s 5-4 loss to Tennessee, the Gamecocks had not won a one-run game in the SEC, having lost four one-run conference games. Saturday, despite stranding 17 runners, the Gamecocks took a step forward as a team, as they won their first one-run SEC game, 2-1, after a walk-off double by third baseman LB Dantzler to centerfield.

With the series tied, the momentum from victory carried to Sunday’s game, as the offense got going in the 6-1 win to put USC back in the hunt in the conference with the second straight series win.

“The guys did feel much better, even though we stranded 17 runners,” said USC coach Ray Tanner. “It was a little bit more comfortable today. There wasn’t quite as much anxiety and tension. I don’t think guys pressed as much ... I think our approach was a lot better because we did win yesterday.”

After having bases loaded with no outs and not plating anyone in Saturday’s game, the Gamecocks had the bases loaded with one out in the fifth on Sunday. Left fielder Tanner English walked to bring in the first run of the game, then a sacrifice fly to center by junior Evan Marzilli plated another run.

Senior right fielder Adam Matthews, who struck out at his last two plate appearances on Saturday, had a squeeze bunt single with two outs to make the score 3-0. First baseman Christian Walker brought the last run of the inning home with a single.

“We took a couple of good hacks in that inning,” Tanner said. “We also had a couple of walks that helped us score some runs. Sometimes you get upset with your hitters and then you realize that you’re facing pitchers in the SEC, which are pretty good pitches.”

The Gamecocks added two more runs in the bottom of the eighth to equal the amount of runs they scored in the first two games of the series. On Saturday, the Gamecocks were aided by a sterling eight-inning SEC debut by freshman Jordan Montgomery, who solidified himself as



Stephanie Pope / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The offense got going for USC in Sunday’s game against the Volunteers when the Gamecocks had a four-run fifth.

the No. 2 weekend starter. Sunday, it was pitcher Colby Holmes who pitched seven innings and allowed just four hits, an earned run and struck out seven.

“As excited as I was yesterday about Jordan Montgomery, I was equally happy today for Colby,” Tanner said. “Colby is a fighter — he’ll battle for you. There’s been a lot of situations where he’s gone 4 1/3 or 5 1/3, and sometimes we go get him because we’ve got guys in the bullpen that we have a lot of confidence in and it’s not so much that we feel like he’s done, but today he seemed a lot more comfortable ... That was important for us. We did have a couple of guys in the bullpen, but it was nice to see Colby stretch it out a little bit.”

With pitching and momentum pushing the Gamecocks to a series win, South Carolina finds itself fourth in the SEC after starting 1-5 in the conference. Before the game, Tennessee coach Dave Serrano told Tanner that a 15-15 or 16-14

SEC record could win the conference, to which Tanner replied, “It has happened before.”

Though the Gamecocks are temporarily in the hunt, the offense is still not where Tanner wants it, but he’s optimistic it will get better as the season progresses. Through 12 SEC games, the Gamecocks have stranded 111 runners, as compared to 99 last season, but USC had also won four of their five one-run games by this point in the season.

“Obviously, it’s something we’ve been working on, and we’re happy it’s finally come through,” Matthews said. “It’s frustrating at times, but this game can be humbling and frustrating. We just have to keep battling. We got them over and it was a relief, and hopefully, we can just continue that throughout this week and just throughout the rest of the season.”

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‘Sky’s the limit’ for Williams at strong safety

Focus for sophomore in spring getting stronger, more physical

Isabelle Khurshudyan
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When sophomore Brison Williams found out that senior DeVonte Holloman would be moving to the spur linebacker position, his initial reaction was that he had to show the coaches he was ready to be the starter at the strong safety position.

And while part of the proof will come in his play on the field, Williams said he also has to prove he can stay out of trouble and that he’s not going

to hurt his team on the field after he was suspended for a violation of team rules prior to spring practice.

Now that Williams is back on the field, his focus has shifted to evolving into a player deserving of a starting spot. He said he hasn’t talked to Holloman about playing strong safety, but learned a lot from just watching him.

“I think I’m just doing a lot of stuff that I didn’t do last year,” Williams said. “I’m going through my assignments and know what to do. I know the playbook better — a lot better than I did last year.”

Williams had a sluggish start

because he suffered a broken arm in fall camp, which caused him to be out for the first four games of the year. He made his first start of the year against Florida after Holloman suffered a concussion. Williams said he was nervous for his first start, and the hardest part was knowing all of the coverages.

“It was good that I got a start, so I know how it will be this year,” Williams said.

Williams said the big thing for him through spring is playing more physically and tackling better, which practically translates to getting “a lot more hands on the receivers.” With

the common theme in spring practice being that the offense has been sluggish, the defense’s performance is the upside, which is fairly normal because offenses can take longer to find chemistry.

USC coach Steve Spurrier doesn’t see it the same way.

“No, not really,” Spurrier said about offenses typically starting slow. “Connor (Shaw) has been doing OK. Dylan (Thompson) and Seth (Strickland) have been doing pretty well. We’ve been playing a lot of guys, and it hasn’t been real pretty.”

Though the battle for the backup quarterback spot may not be resolved until August, the stable of quarterbacks are used to criticism from the head coach, who used to be a quarterback himself.

“He’s always been like that,” Shaw said. “That’s why we come to play for him. He’s only going to get you better.”

Just as the quarterbacks expect the criticism from Spurrier, the secondary expects it from defensive coordinator Lorenzo Ward, who still specializes in the secondary even after his promotion following the departure of former associate head coach of defense Ellis Johnson to Southern Miss for the head coaching position there.

Williams said Ward talked to him about staying out of trouble, but Ward sees Williams’ improvement as a bright spot in the already strong defensive play. Ward said Williams is faster and in better shape, so the only thing for him in the spring is to get stronger, “so he’ll be tough.”

“He’s feeling comfortable,” Ward said. “He knows that he’s the guys and he’s taking it and not sitting up and saying, ‘I’ve got the job.’ He’s working hard to get better every day.”

In a spring where some of the focus has been on where players haven’t met expectations, Williams has done enough to prove he is worthy of being listed as the No. 1 strong safety on the depth chart, but could also be more.

“The sky’s the limit for Brison,” Ward said.



Chris Keohane / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Sophomore Brison Williams (12) will likely be the starter at strong safety in the fall after DeVonte Holloman moved to spur linebacker.

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